(*b*) which were cancelled in 1115 and 1116;

(*c*) for which rectification committees were appointed in 1115 and 1116?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Please see list placed on the table.

Mr. C. K. VELAYUDHAN, RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE— DISPENSING OF SERVICES

103. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) why were the services of Mr. C. K. Velayudhan, an employee in the Rural Development Centre at Cherpu, dispensed with;

(*b*) what are his qualifications;

(*c*) whether the Rural Development Officer has sent any report to the Government about the work of Mr. Velayudhan;

(*d*) if so, the copy of the report or reports may be placed on the table of the House?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) The services of Mr. C. K. Velayudhan were dispensed with because there were many complaints about him.

(*b*) B.A., D.S.A.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No answer is called for in view of answer to sub-division (*c*).

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, when did the last complaint about him reach Government?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I think a few days prior to the dispensing of his services.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether any memo was served on him to explain the charges against him and whether an explanation was received from him before his services were dispensed with?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it not necessary that when the services of Government servants are dispensed with, they must be given a chance to offer their explanations?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Generally it is so. But here, in this particular case, this was a temporary appointment and not a permanent one. From the enquiries made by me there were sufficient grounds to think it would be in the interests of the Department to dispense with his services.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* What was the nature of those complaints?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I don't wish to disclose all those things. It serves no purpose to say those things here now.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Do Government think that the nature of the complaint was such that it was conducive to the good of the department to dispense with his services?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The complaint is of a very serious nature, but I do not wish to disclose it here. The House may rest assured that it was only after making exhaustive enquiries that such a step was resorted to.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* What was the difficulty to take an explanation from him?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The nature of the case is such that an explanation will not be of any use.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Are Government aware that he had so many enemies in the service itself?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not know anything about it. I made personal enquiries, not depending upon anybody. I took evidence from people of the type of my hon'ble friends sitting there.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether there is any other officer who was better qualified in his subject than Mr. Velayudhan in the Rural Development Department at present?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not think there is anybody there who is better qualified.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know, Sir, whether his work as Rural Development Officer was satisfactory.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No. There were complaints about that also. I received complaints from

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the Secretary, Mr. George, who went there to inspect. It was reported that he was absent for two or three days together.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* That is only prior to the date when dismissal order was served on him?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. When he was in the service.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether there was any written complaint which was investigated when he was in the service?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. Complaints received were investigated by me and then his services were dispensed with.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Was he given the opportunity to have simple natural justice of an explanation? I think, Government ought to have done that.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the hon'ble member explain what he means by "simple natural justice"?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* By that I mean that he should have been given an opportunity to explain before he was sent away.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I remember a case where an officer was dismissed without giving notice. Then somebody said to the particular Head of the Department, "you could have served notice on him and then dismissed him. It is a mistake that he was dismissed without taking an explanation". "Take an explanation and then dismiss him" was the order. Is it that you want me to do?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether there are no written remarks in the records that his services were very useful to that institution by the former officer who was in charge of the Rural Development Department?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* But, you see, the former officer also reported that he was sorry he had to change his views, and that he could not recommend him to take his place. I wanted not to disclose all these things in this House. But you compel me to say all these.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister was satisfied that it was a desirable thing to dispense with his services?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Does this House think that anybody will do so, unless one's hand is forced?

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Sometimes one officer of the Hon'ble Minister may be forced by other circumstances to do so. I ask whether it was just and equitable on the part of Government to dispense with the services of an officer who was specially recruited to the service and whose services were recorded to be very useful?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have already answered the question.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is Mr. Velayudhan an Ezhuva?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* That explains the matter *(Laughter)*.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Is Mr. Velayudhan a Jacobite Christian?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* No.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* That explains the position taken up by Mr. Mathai *(Laughter)*.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The question whether he is an Ezhuva or a Christian has never entered into my mind, and I will be in a position to show innumerable cases where I have been blamed for being soft-hearted.

TUBE WELLS IN COCHIN-KANAYANNUR TALUK—SUCCESS OF

104. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of tube wells sunk at the expense of Government in 1114, 1115 and 1116 in the coastal areas of Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk by the Panchayat or Rural Development Department;

(*b*) whether such wells were found serving their purpose;

(*c*) whether complaints have not been received by the Government that the tube wells are not a success in those areas?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) 22.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) There had been some complaints that a few of them are not working properly. But arrangements are being made to set them right.

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